

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 – 28 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. As a result, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 – 28 are pending for examination with claims 1, 7, 11, and 19 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Interview Summary

Applicants' representatives James Morris and Anita Bowles thank Examiner Clark for her courtesy in granting and conducting a telephone interview on May 11, 2009. During the interview, Applicants' representatives and the Examiner discussed proposed claim amendments that were sent to the Examiner by facsimile on April 13, 2009. Examiner Clark stated that the proposed amendments to claim 11 overcome the applied art, U.S. Patent No. 6,204,527 to Sudo et al., and that she knew of no other references that would render the proposed amended claim 11 unpatentable. Examiner Clark stated that further searching would be conducted in light of the amendments to claim 11, and if no applicable references are found, claims 11 and 12 would likely be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 7 – 10 and 19 – 28 and for acknowledging the allowable subject matter of claims 13-18.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action noted that the recitation "wherein the insulator coating the lower surface . . . exhibits a larger dielectric constant than the insulator coating the rest of the coated conductive region" is not clear and stated that "the insulator coating . . ." has no antecedent basis.

Applicants amended independent claim 1, from which claims 2, 4 and 5 depend, to recite, in part, "a first insulator coating a lower surface of the coated conductive region exhibits a larger dielectric constant than a second insulator coating the rest of the coated conductive region."

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Sudo et al. (US 6,204,527).

Applicants amended independent claim 11 in accordance with the proposed claim amendments submitted to the Examiner on April 13, 2009. As described above, in the telephone conference, the Examiner stated that the proposed amendments to claim 11 would overcome this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of claim 11, and claim 12, which depends therefrom.

Objection to claims 13-18.

Claims 13-18 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but the Office action stated that claims 13-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As explained above, amended independent claim 11 defines over Sudo, and is therefore allowable. Thus, claims 13-18, which depend from amended independent claim 11, are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, in addition to reciting their own allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection to claims 13-18.

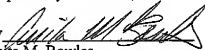
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims recite allowable subject matter and are in proper form. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or that should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. S1022.81095US00.

Dated: May 13, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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